



MathStart®

Rodeo Time

Reading a Schedule

Level 3 Ages 7+

Activity Ideas

Reading a schedule involves time-telling skills, developing a sense of elapsed time, and an ability to anticipate and plan.

Katie and Cameron are all excited to help their uncle, Cactus Joe, with chores at the rodeo. Their first chore is watering the horses before the Bareback Bronc Riding event. "It starts at 3:00, so be there at 2:00 sharp," Joe tells them. "You'll need an hour to get the job done." Katie makes a schedule. The next day, the rodeo starts with a Parade and Grand Entry at 10:00 a.m., followed by lunch at noon, and then it's time to water the horses at 2:00 p.m. By lunchtime, Katie and Cameron are running late. They feel awful when they see Cactus Joe taking care of the horses because they didn't arrive in time. But they get a chance to make it up by catching loose calves one half hour before the Calf Roping Contest. Katie makes up another schedule: Barrel Racing at 10:30 a.m., lunch at noon, Livestock Show at 1:30 p.m., then catching calves at 2:30 p.m. Cameron checks his watch and this time they make it! For the really important final task of handing out ribbons for the Bull Riding Championship—Cactus Joe's specialty—Katie's schedule includes both the starting and ending time for events, so they'll be sure to be on time. But even the best plans can get knocked off course when a bunch of bicycle-riding clowns drive by. Will the kids make it? Illustrated by David T. Wenzel.

- In class, have each student draw up a schedule of after-school activities, Monday through Friday. How long does it take to get home? Do they stay after school for sports or band practice on certain days? Which days and for how long? Do they attend an after-school program at a local community center? Do they get together with friends to play, or do homework? When is dinner time? Any TV-watching, computer games, or reading before bed? When is bedtime, and what time will the alarm clock ring in the morning?
- At home, create Family Schedules. Focus on a particular group of activities, such as "Getting Ready for School and Work in the Morning," or a special event, for example, a vacation ("What We Plan To Do Each Day").
- Working together with your child, write up a list of things that need to be done such as homework, guitar practice, preparing dinner, baking brownies, folding laundry, watching a favorite television show, playing with friends, or reading a book. Then draw up a schedule showing when those things will be done. Record how long each activity actually takes and see how it matches up.

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